Schedule for Statistically-Valid Surveys of the Nation's Waters

Numerous reports have identified the need for improved water quality monitoring and analysis at a local, state, or national scale to help determine the condition of U.S. waters and watersheds. The document “Guidelines for the Award of Monitoring Initiative Funds under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act” provides the foundation for the states, EPA, and other partners to collaborate on statistically-valid surveys of water condition at nationwide and regional scales, for all waterbody types, to improve water quality monitoring and decision making.

Below are proposed schedules for this series of national surveys of coastal waters, streams, lakes, rivers, and wetlands. The schedule includes the wide range of survey activities, including design, field work, lab and data analysis, report writing, and research.

Two national surveys of coastal waters, the National Coastal Condition Reports, have already been completed. The next in the series of surveys, the Wadeable Streams Assessment, will be available in spring 2006.

Figure 1: Schedule for Surveys of the Nation's Waters

General schedule of activities by water resource type:

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Coastal	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research
Streams	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report*	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design
Lakes, reservoirs	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data
Rivers	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report*	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field
Wetlands	Research	Research	Research	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report

Definition of activities:

Design - scoping meetings on defining target population, mgt. questions, indicators, identifying reference sites and thresholds, developing the network, developing and refining the QAPP, SOPs, field forms

Field - training on methods, site reconnissance, and sample collection, field QA/QC

Lab/data - complete lab analysis, lab QA/QC, complete data entry, data QA/QC

Report - draft analysis, meetings, draft report, peer review, final report

Research - address science, technical, and policy issues emerging from past efforts and facing upcoming efforts, supplemental data analysis, refining and testing methods, recommendations to adapt design and implementation

"*May implement the rivers and streams surveys concurrently and combine results into a single report in 2011 to include both trends for streams and baseline for rive

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